**Foreign airlines allowed to fly over India**

†2639. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private passenger/cargo foreign airlines permitted by Government to fly over our country;

(b) the details of earnings during the last three years from said airlines' business in our country, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any criterion for this purpose under which the said airlines could be permitted to operate maximum number of flights indicating the total number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The number of private foreign airlines (non-scheduled) carrying passenger/cargo permitted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation during the period from 01.01.2002 to 31.12.2002 to fly over our country is 246. In addition to this, 19 scheduled foreign airlines carrying passenger/cargo were permitted to over fly our country.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

**Monitoring Indian space with primary radars**

2640. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to monitor the entire Indian airspace with primary radars keeping in view the Purulia and 9/11 incidents;

(b) if so, the details of action taken;

(c) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) uses mostly secondary radars to monitor air traffic; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not replacing it with primary radars after 9/11 attack in the US?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Secondary Surveillance Radars (SSR) are in operation at 14 locations to provide surveillance cover for all the major Air Routes over Indian Land Mass. The provision of SSR is in accordance with the Communication, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Plan of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and fully meets the air safety requirements.

**VRS in Indian Airlines**

2641. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2686 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 2002 and to state:

(a) what was the strength of the cadre and section in the case of 87 employees of Indian Airlines whose requests for voluntary retirement were acceded to, both at the time when requests were made and when they were acceded to;

(b) in how many cases the acceptance of requests, resulted in shortage of staff;

(c) the reasons for acceding requests in all such cases while refusing in one case on this ground; and

(d) what corrective steps Government propose to take/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.